

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-064 - Ilminur Siddiq

1. My name is Ilminur Siddiq and I am 46 years old. I graduated from Xinjiang Medical University in 1999 and then worked as an attending doctor. After having worked for nearly a decade, I was eventually forced to resign due to the Chinese oppression. I am originally from Ghulja (Yining) and I worked in Urumqi until the end of 2008. Because I was pregnant with my third child, Chinese law forced me to resign because it is forbidden for ethnic minorities to have more than two children. I had to choose between my child and my job and so, because of my religious belief, I chose my child.
2. The 5th of July 2009 incident occurred after my resignation. Many of our relatives were arrested in the incident. Our neighbourhood was mainly made up of Uyghurs. Almost every day I saw, with my own eyes, the police bringing dogs into the buildings and taking young men away. After seeing this, I was filled with fear and anxiety. I was worried about the fate of my own children. During that time, I became pregnant with my fourth child. I was forced to give birth to this child without leaving the house until the child was born because this child was considered illegal. Nonetheless, the government found out and fined us 100,000 Yuan for having "too many children". We paid 50,000 Yuan to have *hukou* (residency registration) for my two children. Without that, they would not be official registered. Until the end of 2013, I had my own private hospital. During that period, I had weekly visits from the Ministry of Health and it finally closed my hospital under various pretexts such as questioning why "only Uyghurs and Muslims" came. After that, I felt that it was right to leave the country. So finally, in August 2014, I decided to leave the country because many of my close students, classmates, acquaintances and even the children of my relatives in Ghulja had been taken away. As such, worried about myself and my children, I decided to go abroad.
3. At the time, our family had a trading company in Urumqi. The name was Xinjiang Tangnuri International Trade Co. Ltd. My husband was the CEO of the company. He founded the company with an investment of 1 million Chinese Yuan. The company

was based in Jianjing Road. After I quit, I worked as an accountant for two years at that company. When I told my husband about my plan to leave the country, he refused to let me go abroad but I still left the country with our four children. I went to Egypt at that time because we could not go to Turkey directly. After I got to Egypt, I realized that the situation there was not good and that was why I later moved to Turkey. My husband had always opposed my going abroad. But, after I arrived in Turkey, he told me to stay for a while. He returned to China at the end of October 2016. At the time, my children begged him: "Don't go back Dad, stay with us." He still went back saying: "I pay nearly 30,000 Yuan tax to China almost every month and I am acting in accordance with state law. I can't do anything illegal. I did nothing to harm the government. I have nothing to fear". We had a normal level of contact for three months after he returned. Then, after those three months, he simply disappeared. Later, we heard that he was taken to a camp. We then started to look for him. We went to the press to complain and even contacted Beijing to ask about his whereabouts. We begged many countries to do the same. At the end of 2017, we heard from a local police officer that my husband had been sentenced to 15 years in prison in Urumqi. I took a photo of the police officer who informed us. I then testified after I attained the evidence. We heard rumours that he came out at the end of 2019. But so far, as of July 2021, we have not been in any contact. Is he alive? How is the company? What is its situation? How is his health? We don't know anything about him.

4. In addition, after I left in 2014, I have not contacted my 68-year-old father who lives in Ghulja. My husband's name is Muhammad Amin Hajim. He is 56 years old. He started founded and managed his company from a young age. He was a good person. He didn't commit crimes, he did nothing to harm to the government and has never done anything illegal.
5. I have two sisters in Ghulja, one sister studied in Beijing and the other sister studied in Xinjiang Agricultural University. I have not met my two sisters for seven years now. My father's name is Siddiq Qasim. He is 68 years old. He worked as a technician at the Forestry Bureau. My sisters: Zahide Siddiq (50 years old) and Gulzire Siddiq (48 years old) work in the Forestry Department. Both were technicians. One worked in the

statistics department and the other in the technical department. I haven't heard from them since the last seven years.

6. I also heard (from others) that all four of my husband's uncles had been taken away to prison. One is Bawudun Karahajim, the second is Ahat hajim, the third is Abdumejit Hajim and the fourth is Muhammad Hajim. So far, I have received no news about whether they are out or not.
7. In addition, we had news that two of my husband's brothers, one named Omar Karim and the other Emin Akhun, had been taken to prison. We have not heard whether they are out or not. We heard the news of their imprisonment in 2015.
8. In addition, the mother of my husband is 92 years old. We have no idea if she is still alive. After all, there was nobody to take care of her after both brothers had been taken away to the prison.
9. In addition, my husband had two sisters, Aminehan and Reyimhan. We have no news about them.
10. I also had a cousin in Urumqi named AYGUL. She came here in 2015 to do some business. I have no news about her.
11. In addition, I had a close friend named Nazire Damullam. I heard the news of her imprisonment and her release but we could not contact her. I heard that three of her four children were in an orphanage and only one of them is with her. Her father, Muhammad Salih Damullahajim, was our teacher and our guide. The man was martyred. I have other friends, who I can't count one by one, who have been sent to the camps. I don't know whether they are out or not now.
12. In addition, I heard that my mother's sister's son, Ablikim was sentenced to life imprisonment in Ghulja.

13. Since arriving in Turkey, I have faced a lot of difficulties - materially and spiritually. I hope that the relevant organizations will help us rectify this situation.

I have read and understood this witness statement and I confirm that I agree with its contents. I understand that this statement will be published on the Uyghur Tribunal website and will be available to the general public online.

Signature:

Date: